

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2-18, 20, and 23-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 7, and 11 are the independent claims.

Claim 35 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 7, 11, 20, 23, 24, 26-29, and 32-34 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 20, 24, 26-29, 32, and 33 relate solely to matters of form and do not narrow the scopes of these claims. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Initially, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indications that claims 2-6 are allowed and that claims 7-18, 20 and 23-34 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome rejections of claims 7, 11, 23, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as discussed below. By the present Amendment, Applicant has not amended any of allowed claims 2-6 and submits that these claims should remain allowed. Applicant has, however, amended claims 7, 11, 23, and 24, as discussed below, in manners believed to overcome the rejections to the same. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that 7-18, 20, and 23-34 are now in allowable form.

Claims 7-18, 20, and 23-35 stand rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, as indefinite. In response, claim 35 has been cancelled. Also, claims 7, 11, 23, and 34 have been amended in view of the Examiner's comments and in manners submitted to traverse each basis for this rejection.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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